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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0512

February 1, 2012

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

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PROCUREMENT REFORM

Mr. Frank Dean
Superintendent
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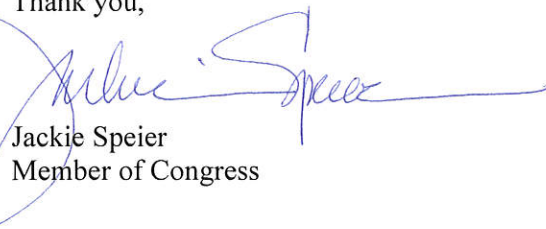
Dear Superintendent Dean:

I am concerned about the tasing incident that occurred Sunday, January 29, 2012 at Rancho Corral de Tierra involving Mr. Gary Hesterberg and a park ranger. Many of my constituents are understandably angered by what appears to be an excessive use of force by a park ranger. By way of background, in the State Legislature I worked closely with California officials on the use of tear gas, stun guns and pepper spray. From the information I have to date, it does not appear that the use of a taser was warranted. I anxiously await a full and thorough report from your office on the incident. In the meantime, I respectfully request the following information as soon as possible:

- 1) Is it mandatory that a park ranger complete training in taser usage before he or she may carry and deploy a taser? If so, what is the extent of this training? In addressing this question, please answer the following:
 - a) What factors are park rangers instructed to take into account when deciding whether to utilize a taser?
 - b) Are rangers informed about the risks inherent with taser usage including the fact that a taser can trigger a heart attack?
- 2) If lawful, would you be open to the appointment of an independent investigator who would evaluate whether park regulations were violated and excessive force utilized during the course of this incident?
- 3) What steps were taken to educate the public about the dog policy change at Rancho Corral de Tierra which now only allows dogs to be walked on leash rather than off leash as the previous POST policy permitted? In addressing this question, please answer the following:
 - a) Was there any signage on the newly acquired property indicating that dogs are only allowed on leash? If so, how many signs are posted and where?
 - b) Was there a community informational meeting about the new leash policy after Rancho Corral de Tierra was acquired by the GGNRA in December?

Please supply all supporting documents and written policies that are relevant to these questions. I look forward to your prompt and thorough response.

Thank you,



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress